

# Market News

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Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, Recycling Market Development Program

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## Spotlight on: Orion Pacific

Located in Odessa, Orion Pacific is one of the largest processors of recycled plastics in Texas. Founded in 1984, the company purchases bales of high density polyethylene (HDPE), also known as #2 plastic, and produces flaked and pelletized plastics that are used in making new products and containers. According to company president Nick Fowler, "We wash, grind, and process the plastics into a form that can be used in the industry. Plastic recycling is always a challenge due to price competition with virgin resins, but we have developed a number of special markets that are dependent on high quality recycled material. We are always looking for additional sources of material and support the expansion of recycling programs in Texas to recover additional material."

Orion Pacific recycles both HDPE natural (non-pigmented water and milk jugs) and colored (detergent and other bottles) at its west Texas facility purchasing the material from recyclers throughout the southwest U.S. The company employs 84 people and has the capacity to recycle 24 million pounds of plastics per year. Fowler notes that his company was the first to recycle post-consumer bottles in Texas and has been a consistent buyer for this material, even with the fluctuations of the recycled plastics market. In addition to the facility in Odessa, Orion Pacific operates a recycling plant in Tennessee that recycles 30 million pounds of scrap industrial film plastic each year. For more information about Orion Pacific, contact Nick Fowler at 915/332-0058.

## Willamette to Build Facility in Fort Worth

Willamette Industries has begun construction on a 47,400 square-foot recycling plant at 1150 Everman Parkway in Fort Worth. According to Roger Young, Secondary Fibre Manager, the company is building the paper recycling facility in partnership with Tim Haugh, formerly with BFI. Haugh will buy the facility when it is completed in October and name it Evergreen Paper Recycling.

The plant will process several paper grades; however, OCC will be the primary grade processed for sale to Willamette for use in its mill in Campti, Louisiana. Willamette expanded the mill in 1995 and now has the capacity to recycle 1,150 tons per day of OCC in manufacturing new liner board. For more information, contact Roger Young at (214) 647-8522.

## Etc...

**Rich Abramowitz** will be the new manager for **Waste Management's Recycle America-Fort Worth MRF**. Replacing Abramowitz as regional recycling manager will be **Jim Ryan**. Abramowitz can be reached at (817) 561-5195. Ryan can be reached at (214) 714-2008...**Corrugated Services Inc., (CSI)** in Forney is now in production with a new linerboard machine which has tripled capacity of the mill to recycle more than 225,000 tons of OCC per year. In addition to the mill located east of **Dallas**, **CSI** operates a paper recycling center in **Garland**...**R.Frazier, Inc.** adds its name to the growing list of **computer, electronics, and telecommunica-**

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## Recycled Material Targeted for Road Projects

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and TNRCC have created a partnership to increase use of recovered materials in road construction projects within Texas. TxDOT has started a program to encourage the reduction of waste and the use of recycled products throughout TxDOT operations, and the TNRCC has committed to minimize regulatory barriers to recycling industrial waste into road materials.

One very important element of TxDOT's program is a heightened awareness of recycling opportunities in road construction. Research into the use of recycled materials in all facets of road construction is being conducted with funding from the TNRCC and the Federal Highway Administration. Materials included in the research are: glass, roofing shingles, plastics, slag, toilets, fly ash, old concrete, shredded brush, and tires. Roadway construction applications investigated include: sign blanks, roadway safety devices, embankments, asphalt, concrete, right-of-way erosion control, drainage, vertical moisture barriers and road base. This research includes surveys of literature and current practice, laboratory testing as necessary, and the development of draft specifications as warranted. This research will be used to conduct field evaluations of the most promising materials.

In addition, other educational efforts are planned or underway including: research reports published in a multi-media CD-ROM format; a conference to inform TxDOT employees, contractors, material suppliers, and local road building authorities about these new applications for recycled materials; and development of a working relationship with the Texas Associated General Contractors on the subject of recycled materials. For additional information contact TxDOT's Recycling Coordinator, Rebecca Davio at (512) 416-2086 or TNRCC Recycling Market Development Manager, Clay Collins at (512) 239-6753.

tions equipment recyclers operating in Texas. The company has opened a facility in Austin to buy used or obsolete equipment from computer makers and large corporate users. For more information, call **Jeff Zeigler** at (512) 326-8303...The **TNRCC Scrap Tire Market Development Conference** will be held in Austin on June 18. For additional information, contact **Paige Buechley** at (512) 239-6704...**Crisoba**, affiliated with **Scott Tissue** in the U.S., is in the process of merging with **Kimberly Clark** in Mexico City. Crisoba expanded its de-inking capacity in March, which has increased the mill's capacity to recycle office wastepaper by 45,000 tons per year...A buyer is being sought for **Golden Aluminum** in **San Antonio**. The aluminum sheet producer, now owned by ACX Technologies, was previously a subsidiary of Coors Brewing. The plant has the capacity to produce up to 100,000 tons of sheet aluminum per year...**Phillips Plastic Recycling** in Tulsa has added a commingled sort line to allow it to accept combined bales of PET and HDPE. The commingled bale can include both natural and colored HDPE, although the company is not currently accepting new accounts for colored HDPE...**World of Recycled Products** is a new recycler in **Denison**. The company collects and processes OCC, ONP, office paper grades, and some grades of plastic in Grayson County and surrounding counties. For more information, contact **Charlotte White** at (903) 463-5200...The **TNRCC Automotive Waste Section** maintains listings of registered transporters and recyclers of **used oil, used oil filters, antifreeze, and batteries**. For a regional listing of transporters or recyclers for any of these automotive wastes, contact **Cheryl Hare** at (512) 239-6016...**Steve Dunn** is the **Southern Region Recycling Manager** for **BFI**. Dunn is in BFI's regional office in Houston and can be reached at (713) 584-5138. Prior to relocating to Houston, Dunn served in the same capacity in two other regions... **Official Board Markets** predicts in its May 18 price report that **computer print-out (CPO)** will disappear as a separate recovered paper grade. Fewer mills are willing to pay the premium for this grade when newer technology allows for the use of white ledger or sorted white ledger. As demand for this specialty grade declines, processors are expected to mix CPO into other office packs.

## Texas Market Prices

(for the week of May 20, 1996)

Material		Processor Price	End-User Price
Aluminum	UBC (cans)	\$0.30 - 0.43/lb ↓	\$0.59 - 0.60/lb ↑
Glass	Flint	0 - 30/ton —	50 - 57/ton —
	Amber	0 - 25/ton —	40 - 59/ton —
	Green	0 - 10/ton —	15/ton —
Paper	OCC (cardboard)	10 - 40/ton ↑	50 - 65/ton ↑
	ONP (newspaper)	0 - 10/ton —	15 - 30/ton ↓
	White Ledger	30 - 60/ton ↓	90 - 100/ton ↓
	Mixed Paper	0 - 4/ton —	10 - 15/ton ↓
	Mixed Office Ledger	10 - 20/ton ↓	40 - 65/ton ↓
	Computer Print-out	60 - 120/ton ↓	200/ton —
Plastic	PET (mixed colors)	0 —	0.09 - 0.13/lb ↓
	HDPE (natural)	0 —	0.11 - 0.115/lb ↑
	HDPE (mixed colors)	0 —	0.05 - 0.06/lb —
Steel	Steel Cans	0 - 37/ton —	95/ton ↑

The prices listed above are compiled by the TNRCC Recycling Market Development Program and are for reference only. These prices are not firm quotes. TNRCC obtained pricing information from buyers within each category and developed a pricing range. "Processors" include dealers, brokers, scrap yards and collection centers; whereas, "end-users" include mills and plants. Processor prices are for delivered material in metropolitan areas of the state and do not reflect the value of any collection services. End-user prices, except for glass, are for baled material in truckload quantity, f.o.b. seller's dock. The difference between processor and end-user prices is indicative of the value added by separating, baling or otherwise preparing materials to meet end-market specifications. Actual prices paid by end-users will depend on quality, quantity and transportation requirements. Arrows indicate direction of change from previous month.

Market News is produced by the TNRCC Recycling Market Development Program. For more information about items in this newsletter, contact the Market Development Team at 512/239-6750 or at [ccollins@smtpgate.tnrc.state.tx.us](mailto:ccollins@smtpgate.tnrc.state.tx.us).

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## Market News Subscription Information

The most valuable tool for market development is good information. It's also the most cost effective. The TNRCC's Recycling Market Development Program publishes Market News, a free monthly supplement to the quarterly Texas Recycler, dedicated to bringing you the latest and best information available on markets for recovered materials.

Each month, Market News features articles about specific materials, highlighting individual market success stories and keeping you abreast of market trends. The Recycling Market Development staff want this publication to be truly useful, so don't hesitate to call them at 512/239-6750 with your suggestions and items of interest.

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